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REMARKS

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving an initialed copy of the forms PTO-1449 that were filed on June 25, 2003 and June 29, 2004. It is noted that the copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on June 25, 2003 is missing the examiner's initials next to the foreign patent document No. 3212311. Because no reason is given for the lack of initials, the omission appears to be inadvertent. Accordingly, submitted herewith is a Request for Return of Initialed Form PTO-1449. The examiner is respectfully requested to return the initialed form.

Claims 1 – 23 are pending. New claims 19 – 23 have been added by way of the above amendment. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The applicants wish to thank the examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 5, 6 and 15 – 18.

Claims 1 – 4 and 7 – 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,737,965, Okubo ("Okubo"). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons, which are provided by way of example.

As described in the application, one or more aspects of the invention are directed to solving the problem of an "erroneous ID registration in an ID collation system." (Specification 4, lines 17 – 20.)

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The claims, e.g., claim 1, recite in combination "causing said transmitter to receive said collation ID transmitted from said receiver," and that the transmitter will "register the received collation ID as a registered ID of said transmitter." (See also claims 2, 3, 11, 12 and 14.)

Thereby, when a receiver transmits a collation ID to a transmitter related to the receiver, the transmitter can reliably register the collation ID transmitted from the receiver as a registered ID, and the receiver can reliably collate the registered ID of the transmitter related to the receiver with the collation ID of the receiver.

Without conceding that Okubo discloses any feature of the present invention, Okubo is directed to a tire condition monitoring apparatus. According to Okubo, the monitoring apparatus includes transmitters 3, a receiver 5 and a commander 6 (column 2, lines 40 - 47). When a reception circuit 21 of each transmitter 3 receives a transmission command signal including a channel code of 001, 010, 011 or 100 from the commander 6, the transmitter 3 is operated in a forced transmission mode. In this mode, the transmitter 3 stores the channel code in a RAM 25, transmits a signal including the channel code and an ID code of the transmitter 3 to the receiver 5, and immediately deletes the channel code in the RAM 25 (Col. 3, lines 41 – 53; col. 4, lines 1 – 30). When the receiver 5 receives the signal including the channel code other than 000, the receiver 5 is operated in an ID code registering mode. In this mode, a control circuit 33 of the receiver 5 judges whether the channel code received from the transmitter 3 matches a channel code set for the receiver 5. If the channel codes match, the control circuit 33 stores the ID code of the transmitter 3 in a memory 34 (Col. 4, lines 34 – 46). Therefore, the ID code of each transmitter can be registered in the receiver.

Moreover, when the reception circuit 21 of each transmitter 3 receives a transmission command signal including a channel code of 000 from the commander 6, the transmitter 3 is operated in a periodic transmission mode and transmits a signal including the channel code, the

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ID code and pressure data to the receiver 5 (col. 3, lines 41 – 67; col. 4, lines 1 – 30). When the receiver receives the signal including channel code 000, the receiver 5 is operated in an air pressure monitoring mode. In this mode, the control circuit 33 of the receiver 5 judges whether the ID code contained in the signal matches any of the ID codes stored in the memory 34. If the ID codes match, the control circuit 33 outputs the pressure data of the signal to a display unit 35 of a passenger compartment (Col. 4, lines 47 – 57).

However, because Okuba provides that the ID code of each transmitter is registered in the receiver 5, problems noted in the present specification may occur. One problem pointed out in the present specification is that when several vehicles are successively conveyed in an assembly line of a factory, the registration of the ID codes will encounter interference occurring in the transmission. For example, the receiver 5 of a particular vehicle may receive a channel code of 001, 010, 011 or 100 and an ID code sent from the transmitter 3 of a neighboring vehicle, and the receiver 5 of the particular vehicle erroneously registers the ID code from the transmitter 3 of the neighboring vehicle. A similar problem can occur in a repair shop when re-registering the ID code.

The office action asserts that Okubo discloses the invention as claimed. To the contrary, Okubo fails to teach or suggest the invention, as presently claimed, when the claims are considered as a whole. Okubo fails to teach or suggest, for example, "causing said transmitter to receive said collation ID transmitted from said receiver." (See, e.g., claim 1.) Moreover, Okubo fails to teach or suggest that the transmitter will "register the received collation ID as a registered ID of said transmitter". (Claim 1.) As another example, Okuba fails to teach or suggest, for example, the transmitter that "comprises an ID receiving apparatus for receiving the collation ID transmitted from said receiver" and "an ID registration apparatus for registering the collation ID received by said ID receiving apparatus as the registered ID of said transmitter," in combination,

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where the transmitter is "for transmitting information including a registered ID." (Claims 2, 3.) Furthermore, Okuba fails to teach or suggest, in combination, "a receiver ... for receiving the air-pressure signal together with the sensor ID," and "a control apparatus for checking whether or not the receive sensor ID agrees with the collation ID determined based on an ID assigned inherently to said receiver," and an "ID receiving apparatus for receiving the collation ID transmitted from said receiver, and an ID registration apparatus for registering the collation ID received by said ID receiving apparatus as the sensor ID." (Claim 11.) Okuba also fails to teach or suggest, in combination, "a receiving circuit for receiving a collation ID transmitted from a pneumatic tire pressure monitoring apparatus," "an ID memory for storing the transmitter ID registered by said transmitter ID registering apparatus", and that the transmitting circuit transmits "a signal of the air pressure of the tire detected by said pressure sensor together with the transmitter ID stored in said ID memory." (Claim 12; see also claim 13.)

Paragraph 3 of the office action asserts that Okuba's commander 6 integral with the receiver 5 provides the channel data denoting a collation ID to each of the tires and ensures that each of the tires has been properly assigned a recognized ID code by the receiver. To the contrary, according to Okuba, the channel code transmitted from the commander 6 and stored in the transmitter 3 is immediately deleted in the transmitter. Therefore, each of the tires is not assigned a recognized ID code by the receiver. The channel code transmitted from the commander 6 to the transmitter 3 is used only to operate the transmitter 3 in the forced transmission mode or in the periodic transmission mode and to operate the receiver 5 in the ID code registering mode or in the air pressure monitoring mode.

Okubo fails to teach or suggest, for example, these elements recited in independent claims 1 – 3, 11, 12 and 14. It is respectfully submitted therefore that claims 1 – 3, 11, 12 and 14 are patentable over Okubo.

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For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claims 1 – 3, 11, 12 and 14, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. In addition, Okubo clearly fails to show other claimed features as well.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 3 and 12, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

New claims 19 – 23 have been added to further define the invention, and are believed to be patentable for reasons including these set out above.

The applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. The applicants do not concede that the cited prior art shown any of the elements recited in the claims. However, the applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

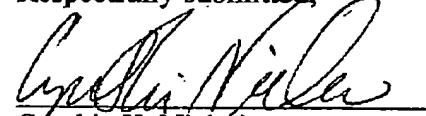
The applicants strongly emphasize that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples applicants have described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, the applicants have provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

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Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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